

Claims

1. A composition for topical administration of an ascomycin for treatment of skin disorders which composition comprises a carrier vehicle comprising

- 5 (i) means to retain water in the outer skin layer comprising a urea, an inorganic salt, or a carboxylic acid, and
(ii) means to hinder water evaporating from the skin.

2. A composition for topical administration of 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin which composition comprises a carrier vehicle comprising

- 10 (i) means to retain water in the outer skin layer, and
(ii) means to hinder water evaporating from the skin.

3. A composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is an inorganic salt.

- 15 4. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.

5. A composition as claimed in claim 4 wherein the hydrocarbon comprises petrolatum, liquid paraffin, microcrystalline wax, solid paraffin, or a reaction product of paraffin and polyethylene.

6. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the carrier vehicle further comprises

- 25 (iii) liquid means to solubilize ascomycin.

7. A composition as claimed in claim 6 wherein the liquid means comprises a wax, a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, or a fatty oil.

8. A composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein the liquid means is isopropyl myristate.

9. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the ascomycin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight of the composition.

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10. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20 % by weight of the composition.

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11. Use of the carrier vehicle as claimed in claim 1 or 2 to enhance penetration of an ascomycin through human skin.

12. Use of a composition according to any preceding claim in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of inflammatory and hyperproliferative skin diseases and of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically-mediated diseases.

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13. Use of a composition according to any preceding claim in the preparation of a medicament for administering to the skin of a patient in need thereof.

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